

Sicklepod

Sicklepod

Senna obtusifolia

Introduction

Sicklepod, also known as Arsenic weed, is a weed pest in some canegrowing areas from Mossman to Sarina. The weed competes vigorously with sugarcane, reduces yield and causes harvesting problems. It is present in severe proportions in the Herbert Valley.

Problem

- Estimated to infest 25,000 ha of the 60,000 ha under sugarcane in the Herbert alone.
- Mature plants can produce upwards of 10,000 seeds and can remain viable in the soil for 10 years.
- Older plants and more stressed plants from either wet or dry conditions become more difficult to control.
- Other chemicals have been tested with poor or minimal control.

Description

- Vigorous growing, very competitive woody shrub.
- Grows to between 1.5-2.5 m tall.
- Leaves divided into three opposite pairs.
- Flowers yellow, small with five petals.

- Seed pod is long, slender and sickle shaped.

Chemical control

- Tordon 75-D is registered for sicklepod control in sugarcane in Queensland.

Application information

- Best control by thoroughly wetting the plant.
- Ground application is the most effective and should use between 200-250 L water/ha.
- Application by aircraft must not use less than 50 L water/ha.
- Chemical rates vary for different size plants (shown below).
- Oil additives such as DowElanco Uptake to spray mix will improve control.

Points to remember

- Older plants may not be completely killed but seeding will be reduced.
- Clean machinery after use in affected areas.
- Established seed populations may take years to control.

Further information

For more information about controlling Sicklepod on your farm please contact your local adviser.

Crop	Weed controlled	Rate/ha	Critical comments
Sugarcane grown from Mossman to Sarina	Sicklepod / Arsenic Weed	Weeds less than 0.5 m in height: Apply 0.7 L Tordon 75-D + 0.8 L 2,4D amine (625 g/L) with Uptake™ Spraying Oil at 1 L/200 L, or BS-1000 at 200 mL/200 L of spray mixture.	Uptake spraying oil contains a non-ionic surfactant. Do not add extra surfactant.
		Weeds 0.5-1.0 m in height: Apply 1 L Tordon 75-D + 0.8 L 2,4D amine (625 g/L) with Uptake™ Spraying Oil at 1 L/200 L, or BS-1000 at 200 mL/200 L of spray mixture.	Good coverage of the plant is essential. Apply at an early growth stage before flowering.
		Weeds greater than 1.0 m in height: Apply 1.5 L Tordon 75-D + 0.8 L 2,4D amine (625 g/L) with Uptake™ Spraying Oil at 1 L/200 L, or BS-1000 at 200 mL/200 L of spray mixture.	Adhere to the withholding period: Do not harvest for 8 weeks after application. Use a minimum of 200 L/ha water volume when using a ground boom. Do not apply 2,4D to sensitive varieties. Must be applied using coarse to very coarse droplets.